



Sandhills Newsletter

Autumn Term No 3

18th September 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

My colleagues and I have been so impressed with how all the children across the school have returned after the summer break, quickly settling back into the routines of school! We are pleased to see how smart everyone is looking in their uniforms. I would like to thank you all for supporting the school uniform policy, the children are a credit to you and our school.

Last week, we sent out the annual permissions form. Thank you to all those parents that have already returned their form. Staff are keen to take photographs of their classes and put these on the website, so please return any outstanding forms so that we are aware of your consent or wishes regarding digital media and its use.

At Sandhills, we believe that our intelligence can change and become stronger or weaker depending on how much effort we are willing to apply. A **growth mindset** is the belief that we can all learn, change, and develop our skills. People who have this positive attitude are better equipped to handle inevitable setbacks, and know that hard work can help them accomplish their goals.

At school, we are encouraging your child to develop their growth mindset by focusing on praising their effort and the strategies they have used. Acknowledging effort, rather than ability, can have a dramatic effect on cultivating a growth mindset. This fosters and nurtures motivation by placing value on what children have done and what they need to do to continue to be successful.

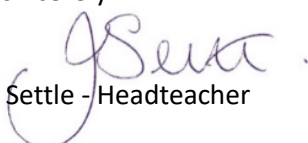
Children are familiar with being a Purple Learner, which is when they are working at a level which is challenging their thinking, but not so difficult that they give up altogether. We are taking Purple Learning one step further this year, and encouraging the children's growth mindset, independence and resilience by providing the opportunity to work through activities called *Comfort, Adventure and Challenge*, rather than placing them in pre-determined groups, which can foster a belief that they aren't good at something, or a fear of failure. I look forward to sharing with you development in this over the coming weeks and months.

This week we are holding parent information evenings for parents of children in years 1 to 6. The presentations will last approximately 30 minutes and will be an opportunity for you to meet with your child's new teacher, and learn about class routines, the new approach to homework, spellings, PE etc. You will also be provided with booklets which will explain the targets for your child's year group. We hope that you will find these useful in supporting your child at home.

If you have a child in Year 6, secondary school applications are now open. If you have not yet completed an application for your child, please do so by 31st October. You can do this by visiting www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions.

I look forward to meeting our new parents over the coming weeks and establishing what I hope will be a strong partnership between home and school.

Yours sincerely


Mrs J. Settle - Headteacher



Superstar Learners of the Week!

I am delighted to list the names of the children to be awarded Star of the Week in the first full week of the school year! You have demonstrated a growth mindset, and worked hard to achieve your certificates – we are all enormously proud of your efforts!



Class	Name
FSU	*
Y1-H	Ella B.
Y1-S	Cooper K.
Y2-S	Cayla O.
Y2-HL	Zain H.

Class	Name
Y3-N	Betty MC.
Y4-T	Daniel R.
Y5-S	George E.
Y6-G	Chi Yk P
Y6-H	Reuben J.

*Children in the Foundation Stage Unit will join in later in the term

Attendance

We want all the children at Sandhills to achieve the very best they can and for this they need to be in school regularly, for which we ask your support.

At the end of last year, the annual attendance at Sandhills School was 95.58%, which is well below the national average of 96.1%. The school has set an ambitious target of 96.5%, which with your help and support, I am sure can be achieved. We will be monitoring the attendance closely and will keep you informed of progress each week in the newsletter.

ParentMail - Cost of School Lunch

Thank you to all those parents who have been using ParentMail to pay for school lunches. We have noticed that some of the parents who have sent money in to school, have not been paying the new price of a school lunch which is **£2.20 per day**.

If you haven't done so already, we would encourage you to use ParentMail as soon as possible, as you will be able to make your parent consultation booking on line in October. We hope that more of you will start to use ParentMail to make payments.

Music Lessons

I have received a number of requests from parents for guitar and piano lessons. Unfortunately, the County Music Service do not currently have a guitar teacher available. However, I am exploring other options and will keep you updated.

If you are interested in your child learning to play the piano or keyboard, please go directly to the Oxfordshire County Council Music Service and register. www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

The County Music Service offer a wide range of music lessons. Please visit their website for more information.



Calling all parent/staff musicians!

We want to form a parent/staff pop/rock band to play a PTA fundraiser in the new school year. Would any parents or staff who are interested please contact either Mr Cobb in school or Paul Morris (Katie and Juliet's dad) at paul.morris@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk. Everyone is welcome, and we'd especially like to hear from any bassists/drummers/keyboard players please.

Many thanks, Mr Cobb and Mr Morris

Mr Taylor's Technology Spot

If you would like to learn more about how to keep your child safe online, then visit the 'Think U Know' website. You can access advice and videos on a range of issues at an age appropriate level for your child. Visit the website: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

Eco Warriors' Top Tip

Don't forget to start planning and planting your spring bulbs for your gardens!



PTA

As a parent at Sandhills School you are already a member of the PTA, however the committee and pool of volunteers is very small. We are looking for new parents to come on to the committee or join the pool of volunteers. Unfortunately, events cannot run without volunteers and the work the committee put in to organising them. The events raise money to help the school buy things i.e. iPads they otherwise would not have been able to afford.

The PTA AGM is on Wednesday 20th September 2017 at 7pm in the school staff room.

During the meeting, we will elect positions on the committee, discuss 2016-17 fundraising and expenditure and plan for the year ahead. Shortly after this meeting we will send round an overview of last year and the plan for this year. Please join us and look out for future meeting dates in the newsletter. Everyone is welcome.



Class Celebration Assemblies

It was lovely to welcome so many parents and families to our first class assembly of the school year on Friday afternoon. You are all welcome to come and celebrate the achievements and efforts made by the children each week at 2:20pm in the hall.

Date	Class
Friday 22 nd September	Y2-HL
Friday 29 th September	Y6-G
Friday 6 th October	Whole School
Friday 13 th October	Y2-S
Friday 20 th October	Y5-S
Friday 3 rd November	Y1-S

Class	Class
Friday 10 th November	Y4-T
Friday 17 th November	Whole School
Friday 24 th November	Y1-H
Friday 1 st December	Y3-N
Friday 8 th December	TBC

KEY DATES FOR THE AUTUMN TERM

Date	Event
Wednesday 20 th September 4:00pm 4:45pm	Parent Information Evening Classes 1H and 1S (in class 1S) Classes 2S and 2HL (in class 2HL)
Thursday 21 st September 4:00pm 4:45pm 5:30pm	Parent Information Evening Classes 3N (in class 3N) Classes 4T and 5E (in class 5E) Classes 6G and 6H (in class 6H)
Monday 2 nd October	INSET – School closed for staff training
Tuesday 17 th October	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 18 th October	Parent Consultations
Monday 23 rd – Friday 27 th October	HALF TERM
Monday 13 th November	INSET – School closed for staff training
Monday 27 th November	Whole school visit to Oxford Playhouse
Tuesday 19 th December – 2:00pm	End of term